

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 11, 2008

At the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Floyd County, Virginia, held on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building, thereof;

PRESENT: David W. Ingram, Chairman; Jerry W. Boothe, Vice Chairman; Virgel H. Allen, William R. Gardner, Jr., J. Fred Gerald, Board Members; Daniel J. Campbell, County Administrator; Terri W. Morris, Assistant County Administrator.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the reading of the handicapping statement.

The Opening Prayer was led by Supervisor Gerald.

Chairman Ingram led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Mary Turman, Treasurer, appeared before the Board. She presented the invested cash and cash in office as of March 11, 2008. She reported that the debt setoff program is working very well since she and staff got the information in early to the State, so money owed could be deducted from citizens' tax refunds.

Mrs. Morris presented the balance sheet and revenue/expenditure summary as of February 29, 2008. She reported that at 67% through the fiscal year, that General Fund revenue collections are at 62%, and General Fund expenditures are at 73%. The Treasurer's turnover audit has been completed by both the State Auditor and the County Auditor, and a copy for each member was made available.

The minutes of February 12, February 20, February 27 and March 5, 2008 were presented to the Board for review and approval.

Supervisor Boothe commented that, in the March 5, 2008 minutes, in the budget discussion, change #5, stop after the word purchase; #6 change to lowered funding instead of reducing budget.

On a motion of Supervisor Gardner, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of February 12, February 20, February 27, 2008 as presented.

Supervisor Gardner – aye

Supervisor Allen – aye

Supervisor Gerald – aye

Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – abstain

On a motion of Supervisor Gardner, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and carried, it was resolved to approve the minutes of March 5, 2008 as amended.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

Sheriff Shannon Zeman appeared before the Board. He had nothing to report today.

The monthly disbursements were presented to the Board for review and approval. A list of additional disbursements was also presented for the Board's review. Questions and discussion followed.

On a motion of Supervisor Gardner, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve the monthly disbursements, plus additions, as presented; deduct the invoice from American Plus in the amount of \$968.73 for further information.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

At 9:00 a.m., the Chairman called for the Public Comment Period. After no comments from the audience, the Chairman declared the Public Comment Period closed.

Ms. Elizabeth Vogel, representing NRV HOMES Consortium, appeared before the Board. She commented: I understand that you had a presentation on the program a few weeks ago so I hope I don't repeat what you've already learned, and I'll be glad to answer questions. As I mentioned, I'm with the NRV HOMES Consortium and also work for the Town of Blacksburg. With me today is Jennifer Wilse, who is with the NRVPDC, and Project Manager for the NRV HOMES Consortium, as well. The HOMES Consortium was established in 2007 as a way to bring additional funds to the area for affordable housing for low income people. The HOMES Program is through HUD, it's the largest Federal block grant to state and local governments, designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low income households. Each year, HUD allocates approximately \$2 billion among States and localities nationwide, designed to provide funds for strategies revolved around their own needs and priorities. Localities can receive these HOMES funds in one of three ways. If you have large enough population base, you can receive it directly from HUD, which we here in the NRV aren't large enough. Or you can apply directly to the State on a competitive basis. Or in the way that the localities that are a part of the Consortium so far have chosen to do, is to join together with one or more neighboring localities in a legally binding consortium and then get funds directly from HUD on an annual entitlement basis. The NRV HOMES Consortium currently includes Pulaski

County, Montgomery County, Giles County and the City of Radford. In addition, the Towns of Christiansburg, Blacksburg, Pulaski, Pearisburg and Glen Lyn have joined the consortium. In order for Towns to join, the County first has to join, and then any Town can join. At the time the consortium was being formed, I understand Floyd County was without an Administrator and decided to postpone a decision on whether to join until an Administrator was hired. I was only hired in September so I wasn't here during the initial creation of the consortium. The NRV HOMES Consortium was given \$850,000 annually, with 10% of those funds going to administration. Thus far, the Consortium has established programs for homeowner rehabilitation, home down payments, closing costs assistance, rental housing assistance. The consortium currently divides its funds based on the population formula, but is considering alternative ways to divide those funds, perhaps based on a rotational basis, which would allow localities to receive larger chunks of funds, and able to do better long-term planning. The Consortium is required by HUD to appoint a lead agency to administer the funds, which is how the Town of Blacksburg is involved. The Town of Blacksburg contracts with the NRVPDC for assistance in administering the HOMES program. The Board of Directors of the Consortium consists of two members from each County, so presently we have eight members. Board members can be staff from each locality. Currently we have a Town Manager, County Administrator, Building Inspector, and a Community Development Director. The Board is responsible for the adoption of program guidelines and the fund distribution. As I mentioned to Mr. Campbell, the consortium would like to extend an invitation to Floyd County to join if you're interested. I'll be glad to answer questions that you might have.

Supervisor Boothe – you referred to the distribution based on population, there are other alternatives that you're considering?

Ms. Vogel – right now, the consortium uses HUD formulas to determine how the funds get divided up. When we initially started, and the funds were divided this way, a smaller locality like Pearisburg, got only \$14,000 per year, which you can't do very much with. So, we're having conversations about allocating among the different localities, in a planned way, so each jurisdiction might get several hundred thousand dollars in a particular year, and would know which year that would be coming, so that would assist in planning, so several rehabs could be done in one year and have more impact.

Supervisor Gardner – it would be used for low income people?

Ms. Vogel – it all has to be used for low income people, but the nice thing with the HUD program is that each locality gets to decide its priorities, whether that's rehab, new construction, rentals, it depends on what your needs are. One other thing, the way HUD requires consortiums to work is that if a locality wants to join the consortium, it needs to do so starting July 1 of each year. If Floyd were to join, we'd have to have an agreement signed by the end of June or before.

Mr. Campbell – do you see other localities joining this consortium, or would this be the range?

Ms. Vogel – this would be the range.

Consensus of the Board was to discuss the matter further later in the day.

Agenda Item 9a – Subdivision plats as approved by Agent for February 2008. Mrs. Lydeana Martin, Subdivision Agent, appeared before the Board. She commented that February has been a busy month with mostly family and lot line revisions. The Planning Commission meets next Tuesday night, and so far only have one plat to review, with 146 acres being divided into 7 parcels.

Tourism workshop – it went very well, we had around 70 participants, mostly local small businesses who were able to network and share information. They are very interested in doing more coordination among themselves. I felt it was a very positive meeting and appreciate the Board's support.

Library dedication has been moved to June 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 9b – CPMT family representative appointment – defer to later in the day after interview is held.

Agenda Item 9c – General Transportation issues, safety and congestion list for NRVPCD study. Mr. Campbell commented that a draft list of “hot spots” had been distributed to the Board, based on previous discussion. The Board deferred the matter for discussion later in the day with Mr. Beasley.

Mr. Michael Maslaney, Town Manager, appeared before the Board. He reported:

Façade Program – Lawyers Building is progressing very well, the new copper roof is very nice, and the owner should be very pleased. The entire front of the building has been totally transformed. The Winter Sun is next, with work on the deck and windows.

Parking Lot – light poles are going up, hopefully that will be done soon. There were a couple of problems with the custom made poles, but we got that worked out.

Restrooms – the roof has been put on, we're waiting for the timber frame, it's supposed to be in this week. It's hard to picture now what it's really going to look like when it's finished.

T-21 Grant – still working on this program. We have a meeting this afternoon to discuss the design of the two different walkways and hope to get a cost to take to Town Council for their approval, and then it goes to VDoT for their approval. Two approval cycles are required by VDoT, this is the first one, they could take up to three months, so we're hoping to push that through a little faster.

Innovation Grants – we're still struggling with them. Contracts are being negotiated. As far as the Town is concerned, things look good, with LMI around 70%. The Mexican restaurant and Hotel Floyd hirings really helped in this area. The close out date is May 25. We have a couple of little hang-ups but hope to move forward as quickly as we can. This is important to the Town, because once the grant is closed out, we can apply for other grants to expand the area to help other Town businesses. We're all excited about being able to do that because we have people waiting in line for the funds.

Town Council is still working on the zoning ordinance, and will be for a while.

Worked on getting Old Hensley re-zoned, did get a 30' right of way, and that area will be re-designed to make the intersection much safer.

Rick Lewis Way - the Town has gone in a new direction. We're putting post lights up with the traditional top on them, kind of a four sided lantern, about 15' high, with all the wires underground. We think it will look so much better than the standard phone poles.

Mr. Carl Ayers, Social Services Director, next appeared before the Board. He reported: Fuel Assistance Program – right now we're at 508 applications for assistance, it was 510 a week later last year. We're running pretty much the same as last year, not really seeing an increase. However, we won't see a lot of difference unless we have a big change in demographics, because the eligibility requirements haven't changed. We've been pretty stable in this area for the last several years. We only have a couple more weeks left in the application process.

For the end of the month, our total number of people that we're serving is 2112. That's up just a little bit from usual. This is a duplicated amount, but all separate cases. We're generally around 1750-1800 unduplicated cases.

Consolidation issue – I've given you information on this issue, and you've written a letter to the legislators. The budget that was approved yesterday still has some items to be worked out, and this is one that hasn't been worked out. While they agree on the principal of the budget itself, this issue has not been worked out. Just to refresh you on where that goes, I did have discussion with Delegate Poindexter on how this affects local governments. Localities already have the option to consolidate if they want to, we don't need money taken out of the budget to force people to consolidate administration if they choose to do so. What this would do is remove \$1 million General Fund dollars, which you're looking at nothing that comes through our office is straight General Fund dollars, you're looking at probably around \$3.5 million that will be taken out of the administrative function of 45 agencies throughout the State. There's no plan as to how this would happen, no move forward to show us what we would incur, both the agency and the locality. What we'd be doing over the next year is trying to figure out how our office would continue to operate and what we would be doing. There's no plan, so at this point there's nothing that I can give you as to what may occur. All we know is that it is in the budget. Whenever the budget is approved, I'll get that information to Mr. Campbell and he can get that to you. If it goes forward as it is in the House budget, then some type of action will have to be taken by this body to determine how the office is going to function and what type of administrative functions will be pooled with other localities. Just in this general area, it affects Patrick County, Galax City, Floyd County, Radford City and Giles County. It affects every locality that serves a population of 20,000 or less in the State.

Supervisor Boothe – if it comes about, we wouldn't necessarily have a regional office, per se, set up like the Planning Commission, you're talking about population.

Mr. Ayers – right, it could be possible that the administrative functions of the office would be combined with another locality serving more than 20,000 or combining two smaller localities into one, and then run an office based on that.

Supervisor Boothe – so the administration could be in Giles or Patrick or wherever.

Mr. Ayers – right, there's no plan, it's just written into the budget. The only plan is for the Commissioner in the State Department to give us an idea of how of what we'll be looking at

as far as a local jurisdiction. Because there are 120 different jurisdictions that do this, there will be a lot of different options.

Supervisor Boothe – the other thing is, the administrative dollars that we'll be short if we choose to keep the administration here, we'd have to pick up those costs.

Mr. Ayers – absolutely. We only have two administrative positions, myself and the Office Manager. If you're only looking at cutting administrative positions, if that's how the plan comes down, then that's the only two positions that would be cut and then the agency would continue to operate. You would have to work out some type of agreement with another locality as to how that would work. I'm telling you that you won't save any money, I don't care what the State takes away from you, it's not going to be any cheaper to do it that way.

Supervisor Boothe – basically you'll have a group of workers with the supervisor that they answer to, two counties away.

Mr. Ayers – those are all possibilities of what might occur, but like I said, there's no plan. It was not put in with we've already had this discussion and this is how the process will work, we're just putting this in to move the process along. So I can't give you any guidance as to how the plan will work.

Mr. Campbell – have they had any discussion about pulling this back into a study?

Mr. Ayers – during those late hours of the session perhaps. What we did as a League, I drafted a lot of this information, is we have put forward some alternative budget language that would mean instead of them going ahead and taking the money, and everybody having to work around and figure it out, they would actually study the process and see whether any money would be saved. That's an alternative that we've sent to the Senate and House conferees when they were looking at it and trying to come up with an idea to move forward. There's not been any specific instruction from the Senate side. My understanding from Senator Reynolds is that he opposes it, but he also says it's a House issue and not a Senate issue. He did send a letter to the conferees to not approve that piece of it in the House budget. The last study that was done on this was in the mid-90's; it shows that it would cost more money to consolidate than it did to continue to have jurisdictions do their own work. This was not put in as an amendment; it was put in as budget language, so there was really no discussion on the matter. We've done everything from our end that we can, you've written letters, if it does go through, it would be effective July 1, 2009, so you would have the coming year to research the matter, and it would take the year to work it all out. As soon as we see what budget is approved, we can give you the details. At this moment, there is no firm guidance either way.

CPMT – The CSA match rate is also one of those items that hasn't been decided either. Whether it's going to stay the same, go up, we don't know. This is the residential match rate, and will affect the upcoming budget year. Our current flat match rate is 23.24% for every dollar spent for CSA. Under the schedule that's proposed with the budgetary process, that residential match rate for any child that we have, would go up immediately, go up in six months, and go up again in 18 months. So basically we go from 23.24% to almost 35%. In the vast majority of

dollars that this County spends in CSA, are residential. Also with that match rate, you have some lower match rates with regard to interventions; however, due to the size of the locality, we don't have the numbers to build programs to get that small match rate. We're going to be hit with the higher match rate. It's going to result in increases throughout the County in the CSA budget. This issue is still alive and well and I fully expect to see an increase. The last I saw they had backed off some and the increase was not as large as originally proposed.

Mr. Dennis Anderson, Trails for Floyd County, next appeared before the Board. He commented: I've spoken to you all in the past and one of the questions that came up was about the liability. First item is the State statute dealing with the liability of a locality as far as recreation is concerned. I'll point out a couple of things, on page 3, paragraph E., Section 15.2-1809, says immunity conferred to Counties for civil litigation, liability, excluding gross negligence (have to be aware of problem). Like if there is an open mine shaft, you've been made aware of it, and somebody falls in it, you'd be liable. That was one of the questions you asked me about.

Supervisor Boothe – what about if there was a washout and someone fell.

Mr. Anderson – you have to have been made aware of it, to come under gross negligence. Like if there is a road, and there was a hole in the trail and it was ignored, and somebody fell in it, then there could be potential liability. I'd also like to hand out a brochure that shows some of the things we're doing, like the web site, donations, etc. Currently, we're working on three projects. I spoke to the Recreation Authority last night about putting a trail on their property. They have agreed to put the trail around the edge of their property and Mr. David Larsen has agreed to grant an easement to an old road that separates him and the park facility, as well as donate a parcel of land that he has there on Route 8. I spoke to the Industrial Authority and asked them for a memorandum of understanding that we proceed with a trail in the Commerce Park. So hopefully we can advance with the wellness trail in the Commerce Park. We also have interest in horse trails, especially from those currently using the New River State Trail. We currently have two landowners in the Indian Valley section of the County, willing to donate an easement, through the Boy Scout camp, which would be about 20 miles. We'd have a connection from Indian Valley to the New River State Park. That's kind of what we're working on right now, in that priority rating. We're not asking for any money, we hope to get everything done with grants and volunteer donations; we're working under the umbrella of Floyd County Cares, the 501C3 that Gino set up. What I would like from the Board is a letter of support showing broad community support from many organizations. It doesn't have to be too specific. We hope to be able to use the letters in support for grant money.

Supervisor Boothe questioned if motorized trails had been discussed for future plans?

Mr. Anderson – I have really grand plans. We have talked some about motorized trails and there is interest in designated 4-wheeler trails.

Supervisor Boothe – once you've designated a trail as non-motorized, you won't change it back will you?

Mr. Anderson – I’m not sure, I think some of the grant specifies designated usage. I would think they would stay non-motorized into perpetuity, I don’t know the legal angles, but I think they would have to stay that way. Especially if we’re using areas that are owned by someone else, like the Rec Authority, they would have the final say as to use. We would have a memorandum of understanding that would outline the uses and designations.

Supervisor Boothe – what operating group would be overseeing the trails? The future administration?

Mr. Anderson – Trails for Floyd County is a 501C3 under Floyd County Cares so donations and grants can come under this umbrella. As far as future out there, as far as maintenance and repairs, we’ve discussed in some of our meetings and what I discussed with the Rec Authority last night, on this particular trail, Trails for Floyd County would take care of all maintenance, costs, etc. for three years through a memorandum of understanding. After three years, we would review it to see if everybody is satisfied, and then go from there.

Supervisor Boothe – I wasn’t sure whether this group wanted a long-term arrangement or to turn it over to another group.

Mr. Anderson – honestly, at some point, I’d like to think that the County Recreation would be able to take it over, if they grow, but I don’t see that happening soon. We’re hoping groups like the Boy Scouts can help us with trail cleaning, sowing grass, etc.

Dr. David Lander – I’m here today to comment on the question as to where patients are transported by the Rescue Squad. I’ll try to keep it brief and to the point. A little background – EMS agencies, which is the general term for Rescue Squads, and other such agencies, operate under a whole hierarchy of rules. They have their own internal structure, regulations and leadership. They operate under regional protocols. There are several regions in the State. And then they operate under State regs. In addition, each one has to have an Operational Director, a Virginia physician who a squad or agency asks to serve in this position. They have to be sanctioned by the State and a contract then is established between this doctor and the agency. That’s called the Operational Medical Director, the OMD. I’m the OMD for the agencies in Floyd. I’m also the OMD for Christiansburg, Blacksburg, Elliston, Longshop-McCoy, Virginia Tech, Radford Arsenal. The reason there is so many is because nobody wants to do it. I tried to get out of doing one of these a couple of years ago, not out of any ill-will, but because I just had too much on my plate. After about a year of looking to find somebody else, they said the State’s going to close us down if you quit being our OMD. So, that’s not to say that there might not be some new blood out there, but in any event, these are not paid positions, they are purely volunteer. The way it works basically is that each EMS personnel “operates” under the license of the physician and I have to sign off on the protocols. In many cases, the protocols are accepted from regional protocols without any modifications, in other cases, we’re allowed to have our own protocol that I can sign off on. The reason this issue comes up, and this is not a unique fact in Floyd County, its come up in a number of places that I’ve been associated with. There are some obvious points. One is we live in a fairly rural neck of the woods, and even in Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the large hospitals are rather scattered around. Second obvious fact, is that people have relationships with hospitals. They’ve been there before, they know the

doctors, their records are there, so everyone wants to go to the place that they want, either for that reason, or for insurance, or a variety of reasons, that we all understand. Of course, the problem for us and all the other areas I'm involved with, more or less, sometimes the hospital is an hour or an hour and a half away, which creates an issue. The issue obviously is that some of the patients are critically ill. Further, the problem is not so easy to decide who is critically ill. We wish it was like TV, in the first two minutes on ER, they know everything that's going to happen and they have it all figured out. But of course this is not the way it works in real life. People who appear stable are sometimes not so stable. Time is of the essence for the EMS personnel to get the person to the best care, which is a hospital with a lot more in the way of diagnosis available. So we really can't tell who's going to go bad, so the underlying principal of EMS, anywhere that I know about, is that you take the person to the nearest hospital. Period. If we were to apply that in Floyd, simply take out the map every time we make a run, put the calipers on, and say, um, the closest one is x, go here, end of story. But we don't do that here and we don't do that in most rescue squads. We bend over backwards to accommodate our citizens so we often go, not to the nearest hospital, but to one further away. This is a question of safety. There are two patients at issue. One is the patient in the truck who needs to be transported rapidly, somewhere. And the other one is the patient who is not a patient yet, who's about to have a car accident or a heart attack. For the safety of patient #2, we need to keep our equipment and personnel available as much as possible, and minimize the time they are away. Obviously, no matter how much equipment you have, you can have it all being used. It would be nice to say, well, you simply have more equipment. But it's never enough, you could have 3 or 5 accidents at one time. So a basic principle is, the patient on the truck, minimize their transit time for the potential patient, to minimize our down time of equipment and personnel. So that's what we do, but we bend over backwards to accommodate the people. We do not use an absolute, mechanical, nearest hospital. But we do sometimes have to say no, that's too far, it would keep our truck and personnel out of service too long, or that would be too dangerous for you, because even though you want to go to Roanoke Memorial, we're not sure what's going to happen to you in the hour it takes to get there. That's pretty much it. The last time this came up to me, just as an antidote, in Blacksburg, I was approached by a person very upset, because they had gone further than they should have, and took someone to NRV, who died 20 minutes later. They felt very bad and were questioning their choice. Adding a 20 minute trip and the person dies 20 minutes later. They weren't worried about being sued, they were worried about the moral fact. Most people in EMS are very moral people, they do this to help people, most are volunteers. It weighs heavily on you, if you make a decision and are afraid that you've hurt someone. That's why they came to me, we talked it over, it was a situation where it probably didn't make any difference. What had happened was, he was an established cancer patient, had a lot of care at NRV Medical Center, didn't want to come to Montgomery because of no records there, perfectly understandable, and pleaded with them to please take me to NRV. So, this is the reality of this sort of situation. The bottom line is that we do bend over backwards to try to accommodate people, but there is a limit to that. That limit can get fuzzy where it would be dangerous for us to take a truck out of service 3-4 hours when we can do a 1.5 hour transport, to bring them to an ER in 20 minutes. None of us want to go to a hospital where we're not established, but the fact is, it happens all the time because of a number of reasons. We communicate, we fax records. Of course, Montgomery is tied into Lewis Gale, NRV into Roanoke Memorial, so those two sets are quite closely tied in. But everybody is closely tied to a fax machine and a telephone. Although we all want to go where we're established, this can be overcome. It's not ideal obviously. In an

ideal world, we'd go where we want. If you guys can come up with a magic sky lift for us, we'll be right there.

Supervisor Allen – how about the calls to the doctor's office, local here in Floyd. Who has the most expertise to tell the squad where to take a patient, the doctor or the squad person?

Dr. Lander – if this is an emergency call, and that's what 911 and the rescue squad is for, the presumption is that there's an emergency condition. If I'm in a doctor's office and they've decided that I've broke my foot, it doesn't matter how long it takes me to get to a hospital, if it's just a broken foot. But in general, the presumption is, if 911's been called, this is an emergency. So these principles would apply. And since there's two patients involved, the patient in the truck, and the next patient who's about to have a car accident, the principles can't be safely waived away by the doctor in the office who says I prefer my patient to go to hospital x or hospital y. I'm certain, if the doctor knows his patient well, and understands what's going on, they have a great advantage over someone who's a stranger or an EMS person. If it's really an emergency, it's not so easy for the doctor in their office to know what's going on either. It's not so easy for me in the ER, with all the equipment that I could possibly want, for me to decide right quickly if someone is going to deteriorate. So we get very nervous about the people that we get in the ER, even after we've applied all our technical advances, good lighting, our CT scans and all. I understand what you're talking about but the basic principle still has to apply. Ambulances and the rescue squad are there for emergencies. If it really doesn't matter how long it takes, there are commercial services that can be called.

Supervisor Gardner – this doesn't preclude if someone is taken to NRV, once they're stabilized there, they can be taken somewhere else.

Dr. Lander – and that happens all the time. It's another step, but after we give it a few hours and everything is settled down, and it's clear where we stand, absolutely, they can be transported.

Ms. Debbie Akers, Western Virginia EMS Council – thank you for having me. Mr. Dalton contacted me to come and talk about this issue from a regional perspective. My responsibilities with the Western Virginia EMS Council, I'm responsible for 13 Counties and 5 Cities throughout planning districts 4, 5 and 12. One of my responsibilities is oversight of the medical direction committee, which Dr. Lander sits on. We try to write best practices and implement best practices for our EMS system throughout the Western Virginia Council region. While the Commonwealth of Virginia has directed through a trauma triage plan, their specific requirements for where our trauma patients must be transported to, the trauma center designation. The hospital group, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, has not established specific criteria for transport of a medical patient. So your EMS system is bound by the trauma triage plan, and that's why you see Lifeguard 11 sitting down in your County so much, because you are not convenient to any hospital, unfortunately. However, under medical care, the belief is that all our hospitals throughout the Western Virginia hospital region, can provide that initial stabilization and care to any patient delivered to them and in fact, regional agencies are dictated through their protocol, to limit their on-scene time to ten minutes or less, and then transport to the nearest appropriate facility for stabilization, and then let the hospital make the determination

and decision on where to transfer the patient. I will tell you that as a Council, we're starting to look more toward heart alerts in the field, and you may see the Lifeguard used more for medical patients than you've ever seen in the past. With heart alerts and even stroke alerts, as the American Heart Association moves their system ahead, you may see the use of the helicopter more for those patients also. But because of your jurisdiction and your locality, we do ask that the localities get together and make a determination on protocol. The Council will not dictate who you determine to take them to. We have the interpretation that all hospitals are able to offer that initial stabilization of care with lab work and initial testing. The New River hospitals, New River Valley and Montgomery Regional, are significantly advancing their cardiac care, specifically, and their stroke alert care. In fact, you will see some protocol revisions indicating EMS becoming more intimately involved within that protocol revision. So certainly, I'll use your neighboring County, Pulaski County, they sat down and drew up very specific protocols, and drew up boundary lines and said if you live in this area, you will go to this hospital, and if you live in this area, we can take you to these hospitals. They defined very definite lines and said if the weather is bad, it doesn't matter what hospital you want to go to, you're going to this specific one. It may be something for Floyd County to consider also. I do know your EMS system here, both your career and volunteers, bend over backwards to try to accommodate the patients. Even using my own history, I can tell you, I run with Christiansburg Rescue, and way back when, our tones would go off at 6 pm and it was a transport to Duke, UVA, or Bowman Gray, and they utilized the 911 system for that. 911 cannot be utilized for that any more. Quite often, the calls to the doctors' offices are routine calls and can be handled by a commercial agency and not take your EMS system out of service to the rest of the citizens of Floyd County. Certainly, if it's an individual having a MI, as much as the physician would like them to go to Roanoke Memorial, that may not be in the patient's best interests, it may be more effective for that patient to go to NRV Medical Center for that initial stabilization and then transfer if needed. And certainly Lifeguard can be used in those situations. And they are using them to take those heart patients to Roanoke to either hospital, they will also fly them to Lewis Gale if their insurance dictates that they be in a HCA facility rather than Carilion. Lifeguard is not specific to their own hospital system.

Supervisor Boothe – you made the comment about the specific hospitals that we need to look at, from specific areas. I don't know how your squad works, or Pulaski, but here, the Squad is a separate entity, and this Board would not be setting up anything. It's their organization and it's their decision on their protocol.

Ms. Akers – exactly. Pulaski County is an independent organization and their advisory board is the one that helped establish their protocol.

Supervisor Boothe – I just wanted to make it clear that we don't set the boundaries for the Rescue Squad.

Ms. Akers – it is nice to have that working relationship though.

Supervisor Boothe – exactly, but they govern themselves. It's different from like, the Fire Department.

Mr. Gene Dalton, EMS Operations Manager, next appeared before the Board. He reported, for agency 1219, 42 calls for the month with 29 transported, 13 not transported for various reasons, 0 cancellations, 0 Lifeguard calls, for a total of 47 calls. The response person responded on 35 additional calls with 7 cancellations, 6 times on scene with volunteers, 18 ride-ins with volunteers to the hospitals, 1 refusal, 3 fire standbys. This is a total of 82 calls for both units. Had 6 calls at the nursing home, with 5 ALS, 1 non-emergency, all were transported, but only 2 were true emergencies, for a total of 44 calls for the fiscal year. On the State report, 56% were handled by ALS with NRV Medical Center the normal transport spot, with 20 calls going there, 2 to Lewis Gale and 5 to Montgomery Regional.

Mrs. Myra Grim, EMS Administrative Clerk, next appeared before the Board. She presented the financial report for February 2008, indicating things pretty much normal. The percentage of collection has dropped to 58%. She indicated that she is researching this matter, to find out why collections have decreased.

Mr. Steve Love, Rescue Captain, next appeared before the Board. He presented the report for February 2008 for agency 218. He reported 65 calls for the month, 36 transported, with 35 handled by ALS and 35 by BLS. Sundays, Tuesdays and Saturdays were the busiest days. Wreck volume was up due to the ice storms. Two weeks ago, 18 calls were answered in two days, and last week, 21 calls were answered in two days, with all calls being answered.

Mr. Ford Wirt, Emergency Services Coordinator, next appeared before the Board.

Regional Jail – Floyd County had 23 inmates the previous month, 27 this month, for an average of 24-27 for the year. 611 current year-to-date amount, which is down a little. The proposed FY09 budget has been prepared with a per diem increase to \$25 for the upcoming year, which will allow re-payment of construction costs and a small contingency.

Water situation at Indian Valley Fire Department is hopefully being worked out, after two years. Have a meeting tomorrow morning with the Health Department and the adjacent property owner to site a well.

Received confirmation of wireless grant approval in the amount of \$100,000 for needed equipment for the communication center expansion. This grant is only for equipment, not bricks and mortar. They tell us exactly what we can purchase. Two consoles were approved this time that were turned down last year.

Have had several brush fires the last two weeks, two especially bad ones on Shawsville Pike and Level Bottom Road. Stations #1, #2 and #3 responded to the fires, leaving Station #4 ready for other incidents.

Mr. Love commented that Rescue had a truck in Roanoke last week, and didn't realize they were the last unit on call, because of no communication ability. Appreciate the work the Board is doing in researching this area to improve communication.

Dr. Terry Arbogast, School Superintendent, next appeared before the Board. He reported:

Presented copy of School Board meeting highlights from March 10, 2008;

Six extra days were retrieved back from the school schedule due to lack of bad weather – they will be granted back to the staff and students at spring break and at the end of the school year; graduation has been moved back to Sunday, May 25.

Public Hearing on the proposed FY09 budget has been set for April 14, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.;

Presented copy of informational brochure from the School Psychologist on services offered;

Presented copy of enrollment report ending February 29, 2008, indicating 2035.5 students;

Presented copy of Spring SOL testing dates;
School Board will hold budget work sessions once final figures are received from the State.

Supervisor Boothe questioned if kindergarten registration numbers were available at this time?

Dr. Arbogast – do not have final figures yet, but believe it will be a little larger based on number of live births and estimates from the Weldon Cooper Center. Will have final numbers in early July.

The Board recessed for lunch.

Mr. Bob Beasley, VDoT Residency Administrator, next appeared before the Board. He reported:

Have received letter from the State Commissioner of a 44% average reduction in State secondary construction funds over a six year period. The first year is a 47% reduction; second year is 46% reduction. This will wipe out everything we added to the plan and more. The numbers may change with the final State budget, but we don't know at this point.

Revenue Sharing Program has been deferred until fall;

Abuser fees were repealed by the legislature, so that will make a difference in transportation funding;

Gas prices are really hurting the Department, just like other businesses;

By State law, maintenance of roads has to come first, before any other additions, construction, etc. If funding continues on the same path we're now on, all construction funds will be gone by 2016, shifted over into maintenance accounts;

We have an average of nine operators at each headquarters; in emergencies we have to pull in part-time personnel and contractors to run our equipment. There are two headquarters in Floyd.

Road-side maintenance crew from Salem is assisting with brush clean-up in Floyd County. They are scheduled to be here for ten weeks, and will also work on secondary roads once the primary roads are cleared.

Supervisor Boothe – Have received complaints of potholes on Route 810.

- Could we also get a copy of the proposed paving schedule for secondary roads?

Mr. Beasley – sure, we hope we can shift unused snow removal funds over for additional paving projects.

Supervisor Gardner – nothing to report today.

Supervisor Allen – I have a constituent here today who would like to speak with you, Ms. Sarah Gettel, about curves, signs, etc. on Shooting Creek and Sandy Flats Roads.

Supervisor Gerald – nothing to report today.

Supervisor Ingram – we need to maintain the secondary roads as well as we can with what we have to work with.

Mr. Beasley – I am trying to get some additional operators. We are so short now on them, it's hard to put a crew together to do necessary maintenance.

Supervisor Ingram – the PDC is trying to put together a regional plan to outline transportation “hot spots” that need attention because of safety or congestion concerns. We could use any suggestions from you as to spots that need attention.

Supervisor Gerald questioned if these funds would be affected also with the cuts in transportation funding.

Mr. Beasley – if these are dedicated Federal funds, which they probably are, the 44% cut would not affect them. We receive a “hot spot” report every year indicating a three year window of accident data. I'll review that again when I get back to the office to let you know of any particular spots. After reviewing the Board's draft list of spots, Mr. Beasley suggested adding the curves on Route 8 before the Parkway entrance, because of elevation issues.

A draft resolution was presented for the Board's consideration, to add Haycock Road to the Rural Rustic Road program, because of inability to obtain right-of-way for planned reconstruction. Supervisor Allen indicated that property owners on the road were in favor of the designation.

On a motion of Supervisor Allen, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and carried, it was resolved to adopt the resolution as presented, adding Haycock Road to the Rural Rustic Road Program (Document File Number _____).

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – nay
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Gerald, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to amend the agenda to include Mr. Don Johnson, Floyd County Chamber of Commerce, at 2:00 p.m.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

Mr. Don Johnson, Floyd County Chamber of Commerce – Thank you for providing time on your busy agenda. We thought with new leadership at the Chamber, you might want to know what's happening and what we hope to accomplish. Membership has grown by 10% in the past two months, with 18 new members since January. That might not seem like a big deal but the trend is moving in the right direction. We now have 180 business members in the Floyd County Chamber of Commerce. Some of the things we've been doing include: we've rejoined the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, and we thank Jerry Boothe for bringing that to our attention. The potential of the Homestead Exemption Act has a big impact on local governments and we discussed it with our members and did what we could to stop it. I won't say it's gone but its slowed down. We are also rebuilding the Chamber web site at www.visitfloyd.org. We hope to have that up and running in just a few weeks. That's a major corridor for a lot of people planning to come to the Floyd area, to find out about the community, what's happening, things they can do here, and things to look forward to when they get here. The work is being done by Citizens. We've advertised our annual scholarship award for Floyd seniors who will attend college. It's a \$1000 scholarship that we give to a senior in a Chamber program. Its designed to help a local student go away and get a good education and come back to Floyd and make contributions to the community. Floyd Tourism Brochure distribution will begin in April. It has become a preeminent publication. We will have 40,000 copies to distribute to 40-plus visitors centers throughout the state, plus five key interstate visitor centers. Fifty-eight local businesses have advertised in the brochure plus information about the County. We are working very hard to expand and revitalize our Board of Directors, and the Chamber itself. We're seeking new Board members who are willing to assume leadership roles in the Chamber. We're seeking members who are representatives of major business groups in the County so we can attract the various business groupings so they will have a voice on the Chamber Board. We're working to improve the chamber's communication program to make it more responsive and effective to keep the Chamber members better informed. We're working also on a member survey so they can tell us what we need to be doing to help them make successful businesses in Floyd County. We will continue our popular programs from the past such as Business After Hours, which is a social program where members can come and meet one another, get to know one another, do business with one another as appropriate, it's a very popular activity. We plan to continue Dickens of a Night, which is the pre-Christmas program in downtown Floyd and our Annual Business Dinner meeting, which is always very successful. We are also exploring other significant programs of interest to Chamber members including cooperative projects with other entities such as the County, Town and other local organizations. We almost consider Lydeana part of our staff; she's a very valuable resource. We appreciate your past support and we look forward to working with the County with the new Board.

Agenda Item 9d – FY09 County Budget public hearing date. Mr. Campbell presented a copy of the draft advertisement for the Board's consideration.

On a motion of Supervisor Gerald, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize the County Administrator to advertise for the public hearing for the FY09 budget on April 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the County Administration Building.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

Agenda Item 9e – NACo Discount Prescription Drug Card Program. Mr. Campbell reported that the new program has been advertised twice to provide information to citizens. The cards will be distributed from the Administrator’s office beginning Monday, March 17, 2008. The local pharmacy does accept the cards. This is not an insurance program; it is a drug discount program for those who are under-insured or those with no insurance.

Agenda Item 9f – Status of E911 Communication Center bids. Mr. Campbell reported that bids did come in over available funds and over the pre-bid estimate provided by the Architect. The contractor, his electrical sub and our Architect have, and are in the process of looking at some items that might decrease the cost to get it more in line with our budget. The base bid was \$539,750; it appears that they’ve identified items that could decrease that cost by about \$69,000. That’s an estimate of late yesterday afternoon. The pre-bid estimate was \$453,290, so our gap is around \$17,000 in terms of what we’d targeted. We hope to be able to negotiate that down closer to the figure. We’ll most likely obtain your approval at the April meeting after negotiations are complete. We’re trying to look at things that won’t have a major impact on the integrity of the project as to what was envisioned. We did have excellent competition, eight contractors submitted bids. Two were in the low range, two-three were high, and a group in the middle.

Agenda Item 9c – General Transportation issues, safety and congestion list. After discussion of the draft list of “hot spots”, the Board agreed to submit the following to the Planning District Commission for consideration: Route 221/610 intersection; Route 221/Oxford Street intersection; Route 8/Oxford Street intersection; Route 221/642 intersection; Route 8 curves before Parkway entrance, elevation issues; Route 8/Route 709 intersection – elevation.

On a motion of Supervisor Gardner, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to go into closed session under Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.1, discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for appointment.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to come out of closed session.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adopt the following certification resolution:

**CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION
CLOSED MEETING**

WHEREAS, this Board convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote on the motion to close the meeting to discuss personnel in accordance with Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.1 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting to which this certification applies; (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

Before a vote is taken on this resolution, is there any member who believes that there was a departure from the requirements of number (1) or number (2)? If so, identify yourself and state the substance of the matter and why in your judgment it was a departure.

Hearing no statement, I call the question.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

This Certification Resolution was adopted.

Agenda Item 9b – Appointment of CSA Management Team, family representative, four year term.

On a motion of Supervisor Gardner, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to appoint Ms. Beth Deskins to the Community Policy Management Team as family representative, for a four year term.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Gerald, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to approve payment to American Plus, Inc. in the amount of \$968.73.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize the County Administrator to write a general letter of support for the Trails in Floyd County Program, being non-specific as to sites or locations.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

On a motion of Supervisor Gardner, it was resolved to authorize steps necessary for Floyd County to join the NRV HOME Consortium beginning July 1, 2008.

Motion died due to lack of second.

Discussion followed on the Board's interest in the program, but felt further information was necessary before a decision is made on joining the program. The County Administrator was asked to obtain further information, specifically on: how Floyd County fits into the Consortium; how dollars will be distributed; schedule of distribution; financial standpoint with HUD if there is a mis-use of funds, how each locality would be responsible; Board of Directors make-up; are Towns allowed to vote or only Counties; how do citizens qualify for the program; how many Floyd County residents are eligible for the program according to preliminary figures? The Board will discuss the matter further at next month's meeting.

Mr. James E. Cornwell, County Attorney, next appeared before the Board. He commented that a public hearing was scheduled at 3:00 p.m. on the proposed Floodplain Ordinance amendments. Due to a printing error at the Floyd Press, the ad did not run the second week as required. State Code requires the ad to run two consecutive weeks in the same newspaper.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Gerald, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize the County Administrator to re-advertise for the public hearing on the proposed amendment to the Floodplain Ordinance, with the public hearing to be held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, 2008 in the Board Room of the County Administration Building.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye

Supervisor Ingram – aye

Mr. Cornwell commented that he is still working on the Verizon issue and with the Industrial Development Authority on the Commerce Park covenants/restrictions.

Mr. Campbell presented a draft RFP for actuarial services as required under the new regulations of GASB 45, which provides information about post retirement benefits. The regulations do not apply to the County itself, because we do not provide post retirement benefits, but the school system does provide same. The County has to have the actuarial service performed so the auditor can acknowledge same in the annual audit.

On a motion of Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to authorize the County Administrator to advertise for actuarial services to meet GASB 45 regulations, as presented.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram – aye

Supervisor Allen commented that he had been approached by a State Trooper as to the new State law that provides one free County decal for Troopers and Deputies, such as is allowed for Rescue Squad and Fire Department members. Consensus of the Board was for the County Administrator to research the matter and report back to the Board.

On a motion of Supervisor Gerald, seconded by Supervisor Boothe, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to adjourn to Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. for the FY09 budget public hearing.

Supervisor Gardner – aye
Supervisor Allen – aye
Supervisor Gerald – aye
Supervisor Boothe – aye
Supervisor Ingram - aye